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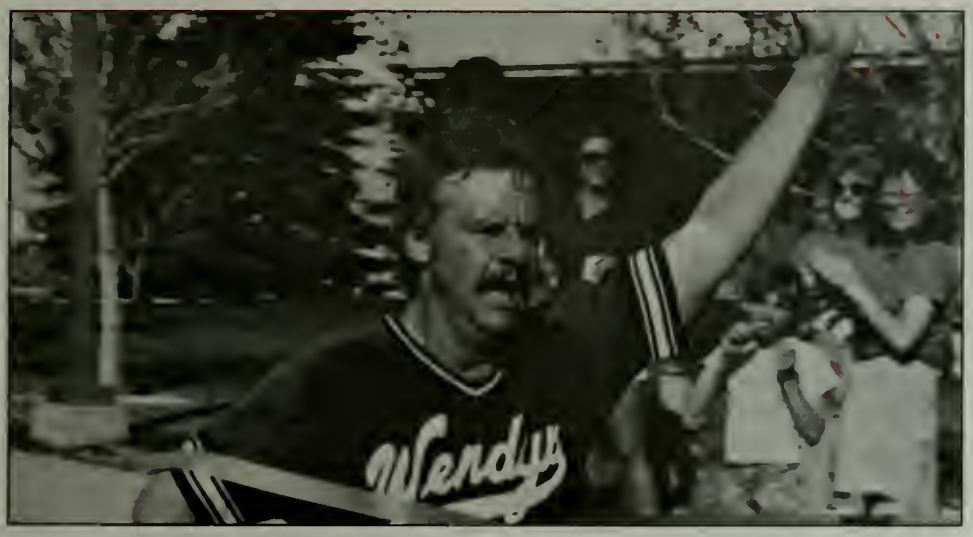
Department of Transportation Employee Newsletter — August 1991



Jim Lewis shows the stress of competitive running as he crosses the finish line during one of the events of the National Transportation Road Race Challenge.. The results of the events can be found in a story on page 3.

Lights out for Helena

An underground power cable "grounded out" July 16 at 1:30 pm, throwing MDT headquarters in Helena into near total darkness.

Harold Mohn, building maintenance supervisor, said Montana Power responded within 20 minutes and had the power restored by 6:30 pm, although it took Mohn's crew until 11:30 pm to bring all electrical systems back on-line in the building.

A skeleton crew was kept on in each office to answer phones. All other employees were allowed to go home at 2:45 pm when it was determined the power wouldn't be back on until after normal business hours.❖

Small division has big role in MDT mission

Although it's only one of their many activities, the Aeronautics Divsion may be best known for their efforts in air search programs. Whenever a pilot is reported down, one of the bureau's volunteer coordinators goes on 24-hour duty to assist the organizations and pilots conducting the search. The bureau also pays for the fuel, training programs and workman's compensation expenses of the volunteers.

Aeronautics came to MDT as part of the new reorganization. The main off-ice, which is owned by the division, is located at the Helena airport. This is convenient, since the division concerned with the supervision and regulation of Montana's aircraft, and pilots.

Although one of the state's smallest divisions, Aeronautics has one of the largest areas of responsibility.

The small unit is responsible for the 1,750 pilots and 2,500 aircraft (fixed wing and rotary) currently registered in Montana.

The division is divided into two bureaus: Safety and Education and Airport/Airways.

The Safety and EducationBureau, according to Chief *Fred Hasskamp*, is responsible for the registration of

— see Aeronautics, page 3

Since our reorganization, we've been joined by some employees of the Departments of Commerce and Revenue, as well as the entire Aeronautics Division. The wide variety of services goes beyond our old mission as the Department of Highways. We feel your newsletter should reflect that new identity and we're asking for your suggestions for a new name . Drop us a note, or call 444-6200, if you have an idea. We would appreciate getting your submissions by September 30.

Montana Department of Transportation
MDT

PLEASE RETURN

Service Awards

Service awards for May, June and July were presented in the following categories:

35 years: Ralph Hobbs, James Williams, Gordon Treftz, Robert Swanson.

30 years: William Maart, Eugene Piedalue, Robert Gilman, Ray Grant, Gordon Garpestad, Eugene Bankey, Robert Webb.

25 years: William Steyh, Clifford Kirby, Alfred Mann, Ray Halvorson, Edward Reuterdahl, Daniel Bartsch, Larry Maier, Ronald Myrvik, Bruce Opie.

20 years: Nancy Stephens, Keith McFarlane, Larry Frideres, Gary Gilmore, Julian Federico, Norman Brighton, Gordon Koterba, James Reynolds, Lawrence Parsons, Russell Angwin, Jack Barisich.

15 years: Waldo Lagge, Mark Goodman, Donald Dusek, Larry Talseth, Mark Leighton, Jerry Lynch, Mark Chandler, James Harmon, Joseph Kolman, Gregory Kovich, Dennis Keaster, Daniel Carpenter, Joseph Crocifisso, James Erickson, Gary Kalberg, Thomas Stroisch, Lars Olsen, David Kelly, Gregory Avent, Jay Donley, John Huber, Gordon Charlton.

10 years: Dale Johnson, Roy Parmly, Mark Moberley, Alan Aspenlieder, Kevin Bruski, Dennis Dietrich, Roger Schultz, Darrell Zook, Larry Schwarz, Marlene Swartz, Daniel Hansard, Lynn Dale.

5 years: Kevin Hendrickson, Theresa Davidson, Thomas Marchwick, Merle Bearden, Steven Petrashek, David Lee, Carolyn Rogers, Terry Steen, Gary Christopherson, Timothy Ford, Roy Roden, Martin Leanhart, Donald Johnston, Frank Lubick. ❖

Retirements

Retirees with 30 or more years of service with state government were: Arthur Baranko, Great Falls, 33; Cecil Lincoln, Forsyth, 32; Robert Wagner, Dillon, 31 (27 MDT); and Jack Liedle, Billings, 30.

Longevity honors for 20-plus years went to: Russell Wrigg, Missoula, and Karl Norwell, Libby, who retired with more than 29 years of service each. Other retirees breaking the 20-year mark were:

Gordon Gould, Cohagen, 27;
John Knowles, Great Falls, 27;
Richard Walstrom, Emigrant, 21;
Robert Newhouse, Helena, 21 (13 MDT); and Norm Brighton, Helena, 20.

Longevity honors for those retiring with less than 20 years went to:

Richard Lewis, Stevensville, 14;
Allen Jones, Clancy, 13 (6 MDT); and Shirley Neuhardt, East Helena, 13 (12 MDT).❖

The employee newsletter is published six times a year by the Public Affairs Bureau, Montana Department of Transportation:

John Rothwell, Director

Public Affairs Bureau staff:

Dan Bartsch
John Degel
Jeannie Huntley
Dennis Unsworth

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Helena, MT 59620
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– by John Degel

New computer service

User Support Services recently installed an uninterruptible power source (UPS) in Helena. It's like a combination of a surge protector and a battery.

According to *Don Lovely*, Assistant Administrator for the Administration Division, the UPS system provides a clean, uniform power source that smoothes power spikes and nullifies power outages.

Several critical components of the departmental computer system have been attached to UPS. Now the system will stay on even in the event of lightening strikes or a power outage.

Even if you lose power to your terminal, you will usually be able to start right where you were before the outage. The system will even protect working documents you didn't have time to save.

If you have any questions, or need more information, call User Support at 444-6311.❖

Tim Cail wins 6th race in a row

The National Transportation Week Road Race Challenge is held annually to allow MDT employees to compete against the finish times of other transportation employees from other states.

Tim Cail won his sixth 10-k with a winning time of 40 minutes, 10 seconds. He was followed by Ken Neumiller and Denis Burke.

Top women finishers in the 10-k were Jean Bond, Dana Chapman and Jo Anne Eschler.

The top three men in the 5-k race were Andy Nelson, Rex Hoy and Mike Bousilman. Women winners were Theresa Cash, Trudi Helvik and and Annette Stockdale.

Derek Morgan and Tina Kroll were the winners of their respective one-mile races. Kroll was followed by Brie Mullins and Traci Sheen. Zach Willert placed second in the men's division.

In team competition, the Three Turtles: Bob Tholt, Dana Chapman and Ken Neumiller, took first in the 10-k event.

The 5-k race was won by Fussion Feet: Mike Lynch, Andy Nelson and Rex Hoy.

The one-mile team winner was Three Generations, comprised of Bea and Traci Steen and Heather Allison.❖

Dana Chapman is all smiles as she crosses the finish line of the 10-k race of the National Transportation Race Week . She was one of the top three finishers.

Walther honored for encouraging training

James Walther, Chief Materials Engineer for the Materials Bureau, was named public sector Employee of the Year by the Helena Chapter of Professional and Business Women last May.

He was selected for his efforts to provide training opportunities for his employees, and for encouraging cross-training for women in traditionally male-dominated areas.

This cross-training included skills that gave employees extensive knowledge of materials used in highways construction, sampling and testing procedures, as well as requirements for certification. ❖

Classes for Native Americans

Bonnie Sedita, Missoula District Personnel Specialist, works with the Salish Kootenai College to develop post-secondary classes for Native Americans.

These classes qualify them for positions with MDT, such as survey aides or temporary winter truck drivers.

According to Sedita, these courses will enable Native Americans to qualify for jobs requiring application interviews or special licenses or permits.❖

Aeronautics *(continued from page 1)*

Montana-based aircraft and pilots, training and organizing air search volunteer programs, and conducting competency checks and proficiency flight instruction for pilots.

The Airport/Airways Bureau assists community airports with technical expertise, and maintenance and operation of:

- 25 non-directional radio beacons,
- 65 air-to-ground communication sites.

Bureau Chief *Gerald Burrows* pointed out the bureau operates 14 state-owned airports, including the air carrier airport at West Yellowstone. The bureau is also responsible for 123 public use airports in Montana. Burrows says his office has inspected 114 so far this year.

According to the study to create the MDT, including Aeronautics in the new agency created a number of cost-cutting possibilities:

- Combining knowledge, equipment and resources to reduce airport expenses such as paving, grass cutting and snow removal,
- better support for funding, and
- use of highway radio repair workers on airport equipment.

"We see a lot of potential in this relationship, " said Burrows. "In dealings with the engineering people and other sections we found MDT's people to be very helpful. We are looking forward to using that experience and talent a lot more in the future.

" We're also enthusiastic about the benefits to the public from this reorganization. Having access to other resources makes it possible for us to serve the public faster and at a lower cost, Burrows said, so we're saving time and money."

– by John Degel

EAP offers confidential assistance to employees and families

Have you ever had one of *those* days? You know, when you realize income never, *ever* meets outgo. Or, when the kids wake up coughing and cranky and you just *know* you've got the same bug they do?

Some of us have years like that. Luckily, MDT offers a new benefit program providing confidential assistance and information for personal and physical problems complicating your life or your work.

"The Employee Assistance Program has two distinct components," according *Barbara Martin*, coordinator of the program. "One part provides short-term counseling and referral to help you gain control and perspective in your life. The other part is a 'health hotline,' offering free and confidential information over the telephone on any and all health issues."

"With the health hotline," Martin said,"you don't even have to give your name. The medical staff will answer your questions about any physical health issue. " Examples include:

- patient rights
- birth control
- medication
- immunizations
- generic drugs
- seeking a second opinion

"They'll even explain medical terms and describe medical procedures," Martin said. "This is the place to ask all those questions you're too embarrassed to ask your doctor."

Martin stressed all Employee Assistance Program (EAP) services for you and your family are strictly confidential with absolutely no information going to the department, your spouse or family without your direct knowledge and approval.

If an EAP counselor helps you determine the need for more counseling, Martin said, you can get up to four free visits per issue per year. After that, the state health insurance usually picks up 50% of the tab once your deductible's been met. Martin advised all employees to check with Blue Cross/Blue Shield for questions on insurance deductibles and allowable payments by calling 1-800-423-0805.

Martin encouraged supervisors to refer employees whose work performance may be affected by personal problems. She said the EAP would also be a perfect place for supervisors to get assistance in dealing with problem employees. Martin stressed the point that supervisors can't receive feedback on an employee's involvement in the program without written consent from the employee.

If you decide EAP is just the ticket to get to know yourself a little better, or to ease work or family strain, all you have to do is make one phone call:

Billings - 652-8844
Great Falls - 727-4358
Miles City - 232-3040
Bozeman - 587-8238
Helena - 443-1127
Missoula - 721-0291
Butte - 782-0471
Kalispell - 752-6443
24-hour crisis line: 1-800-833-3031

Healthline: 1-800-821-6222
(8 am - 5 pm, weekdays)

"This progam can do a lot of good for people, " Martin said. "We've just got to use it." — by Jeannie Huntley

Services and benefits offered:

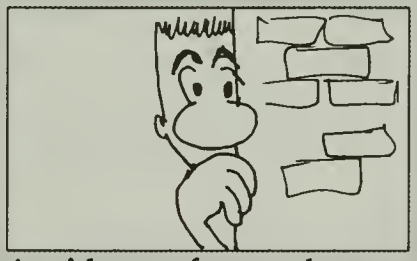
- confidential, no-charge assessment of any personal problem,
- early identification of problems, allowing for a quicker recovery,
- 24-hour-a-day crisis counseling,
- assessments performed by master-level counselors, and
- assistance with locating appropriate community resources.

Counselling offered:

- parenting and family issues
- eating disorders
- legal issues
- marital relationships
- aging
- drugs and alcohol abuse
- depression/grief
- financial matters
- child abuse.

Do you need assistance?

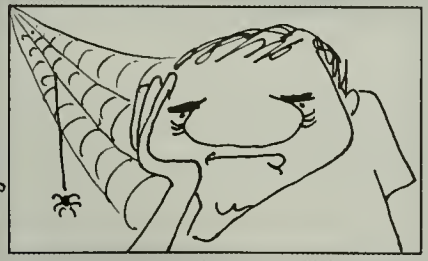
Basic personality change



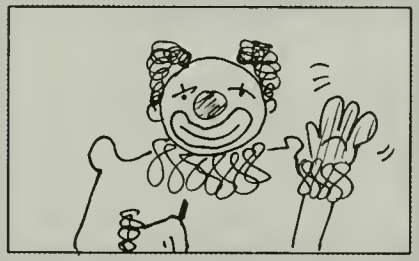
Avoidance of co-workers

Confusion

Hostility



Unusual lack of energy



Inappropriate dress

Remodeling Underway-

Ed Gordon seems to be taking the chaos in stride during remodeling of the Motor Carrier Services office area. The remodeling is the result of recent reorganization that created the Montana Department of Transportation.

By the end of the year, every floor of the MDT building will have undergone some changes. The office space changes will take some space from a number of offices in order to accommodate incoming personnel. Motor Carrier Services, for example, lost some floor space in their first floor location.

In some instances, divisions will actually find their work space expanded. The remodeling work was simplified by the fact that all interior walls and fixtures are designed to be moved quickly.❖

—photo by John Degel

Unique project underway

Billings bridge project spans Yellowstone River

A bridge project is underway in Billings that engineers say is one of the truly unique projects in the history of the department. When done, the project will completely change the appearance of the Yellowstone River crossings near the Metra.

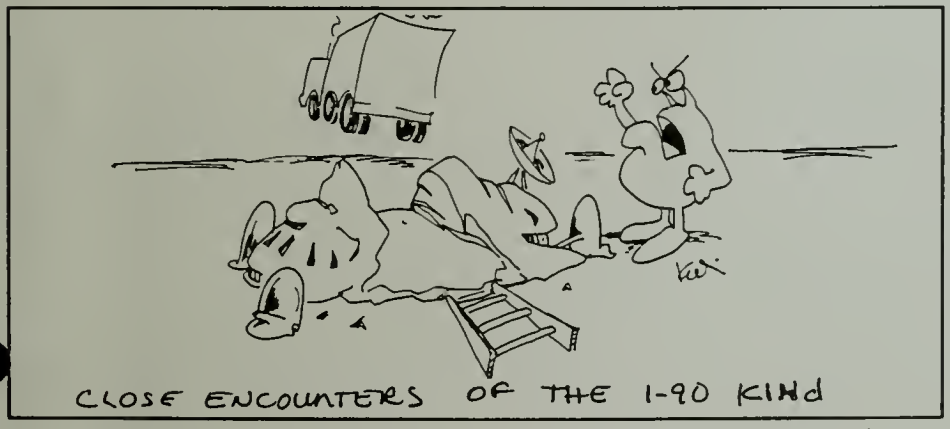
The project calls for replacing the Billings East Bridge – which is currently a three-span, 540-foot long, 24-foot wide, continuous steel truss structure – with a 566-foot long, 82-foot wide, four-lane structure, and replacing the Montana Rail Link overpass with a four-lane overpass.

A number of pipelines for four utility companies must be relocated across the river to make way for the new bridge. The move includes a total of five pipelines 750-feet long, which will be moved in a single effort. This is a unique action in the department.

The crossing must be accomplished during low water flows and completed before fish spawning season begins around October 1. The job is further complicated by the heavy use of the area during horse racing, county fair and NILE activities.

Roy Ventura, Billings District Engineer, believes the movement of the pipes can be made without serious traffic problems arising.

Construction activities will be proceeding on both banks of the Yellowstone River at the same time.❖



– Courtesy of Kevin Beckstrom, Utah DOT

Butte highlights

The Butte District held its golf tournament and picnic for employees and retireees August 9. The golf tournament took place at Highland View and was won by the team of Carl Peil, Bill Gromljez, Tony Olsen and Victor Schatz.

After the tournament, the picnic was held at Stodden Park. Some of the retirees honored were Richard Walstrom and Robert Wagner.

Butte also reports that Brett Williams transferred in from Helena. Rickie Fulwiler is the new maintenance supervisor in Bozeman; Marianne Matthews is the new administrative assistant in Bozeman, and Carla BeBoer moved into Marianne's administrative clerk job.

Lary Dassinger transferred to Carbella from Livingston. He was replaced by Russell Sutton.❖

Radio "shacks" rebuilt

Several buildings inthe Glendive District that house radio relays were recently given a new lease on life.

The buildings were reconstructed during the winter by maintenance crews in the district because they were infested with mice, cold to work in and in poor condition. Three new shacks were built and moved to spots near Baker, Richey and Makoshika State Park.❖

Rose Garden Visit - During a recent seminar in Washington, transportation officials from around the country went to the White House to visit with President Bush. Among those attending a speech by the President in the Rose Garden were (l-r) Don Dillard, Director of Wyoming's DOT; Ron Hill, Assistant Director, Nevada DOT; Robert Champion, Acting Deputy Director, MDT; and John Rothwell, MDT Director – White House Photo

Publication dates set

In an effort to provide more timely coverage of MDT personnel and events, the newsletter is increasing the number of issues published from four a year to six a year.

Submissions and photographs will need to be in the Public Affairs Bureau office on a different schedule than in the past to meet the new deadlines. The schedule changes are as follows:

Deadline Date	Issue Date
September 30	October
November 29	December
January 30	February
March 31	April
May 29	June

Twenty-one hundred copies of this public document were produced at an estimated cost of 31¢ each for a total cost of $655.17. This includes $294.57 for production, $56.90 for distribution and $303.70 for printing.

New MDT logo attracts national attention

One of the most obvious and quickly noticed changes created by restructuring the Department of Transportation was the department's new logo.

According to *Dennis Unsworth*, Public Affairs Bureau Chief, the change was initiated by Director *John Rothwell's* desire to make a clean break with the identity of the old Department of Highways.

Rothwell has continually emphasized that the new department is not concerned just with highways, but with all aspects of transportation, Unsworth said. The design selected for the deparment logo doesn't emphasize any one facet of the new department's structure.

"We chose the present logo because it was simple and businesslike," said Unsworth. "It's simple and doesn't look stiff or feel stuffy."

"We chose the MDT acronym because there are several MDOT's around the country," he continued. "We're the only MDT identity in the nation."

The logo was designed by *Clay Shulz*, who has a lot of experience in developing corporate identities. He's been involved in corporate design for Coors, General Electric, Nike and a number of other international corporations.

The lines through the logo and the slant of the letters suggests movement, which is the lifeblood of MDT. A warm gray was chosen for the color because it appears more businesslike and fits the logo better than the blue color used by the department in the past.

Although Shulz designed the logo, all of the uses of the logo are found in designs created by *Amy Glasscock* of of Smith Kleinjan Advertising in Helena.

"All of our envelopes, letterhead, decals and caps were designed by her and we're very pleased by the appearance of her work," Unsworth said.

There were a number of designs submitted by Shulz and other artists. The new design was chosen after several weeks of consideration. The new logo allows a tighter layout for stationery, which meets the goals of modernization intended by the department.

According to Unsworth, the deparment has emphasized one-page letters for some time. With the new design, there's more space on the page available for writing.

The letterhead design mandates a one and-a-half inch left margin, which creates a six-inch line length. Studies show that this length is easier to read and keeps the reader's attention, he said.

The new logo made its first appearance July 1.

The new MDT logo was selected for its simplicity and because it creates a new image for Montana's Department of Transportation.